



TUFIC

TASMANIAN U.F.O. INVESTIGATION CENTRE

PO Box 99
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October

NEWSLETTER

ED. 43 1984

YEAR TO DATE.

Our second Newsletter for 1984 sees little change on the local UFO front. "The Re-entry" case of September 15th (see separate item "A Media Event") brought a considerable number of telephone calls, otherwise there have been few reports to investigate, and only one puzzling case from Greens Beach on July 15th. Interestingly this case came to the Centre's attention via the Department of Aviation, complete with sighting details as the RAAF are now only interested in cases with defence or security implications. (see Greens Beach Sighting).

Early in the year West Australia seems to have been the scene for a number of reports. A possible CE2 at Midland on Jan 20th(1) with a claim the same night in the same suburb of a youth being attacked by ugly beings whilst asleep in a tent. Following this there was a car pace report from Hammersley and a mist swathed oval object hovered over the roadhouse at Turkey Creek.(2)

Quite a few reports of nocturnal lights were investigated in Queensland(3) mainly in March. By May the action had moved to Victoria with a possible CE2 case mentioned in the WAUFOIC Newsletter. It occurred at Sebastopol on May 17th. The car radio in a security van played up when a green ball was seen just above the vehicle. A couple of other Sebastopol reports are mentioned so it is a pity no more information is available on these cases and if any investigation was carried out.

June brought the claim of a possible Radar Visual/NL sighting in West Australia (1&2). An erratic light was seen and it was reported contact was made by Perth radar. No aircraft were up at the time. South Australia also features sightings in June, erratic lights near Murray Bridge(4), and a CE2 case on June 3rd at Hahndorf. (5) In this case freeway lights and the witnessess car engine were possibly effected by a white light seen in the sky.

Events of a more dubious nature took place in the Adelaide Hills in July(5&6). General claims of UFO sightings were made with no specific details mentioned. Also traces of a possible landing and animal mutilation occurred in the same time span.

Tasmania has had little activity during 1984 whilst NSW does not seem to have featured at all so far! Despite contact between groups it is not easy to keep track of UFO activity and levels throughout Australia. Generally speaking there appears to be more widespread cases than during 1983 but until the day when full detail on all Australian cases can be readily made accessible groups in each state are never quite going to know what is happening next door, so to speak.

Notes 1.Firth UFO Research Group.

2.West Australian UFO Investigation Centre.

3.UFO Research Queensland.

4.Victorian UFO Research Society.

5.Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research.

6.Sunday Times/Victorian Truth.

UPDATE—"Motorist Loses Control".

Our June 84 Newsletter carried information on a report from November 1983 from the West Coast. A motorist claimed he had lost control of his car whilst driving home to Stringers Creek from Tullah. A blue circle of intense lights remained above his car during the incident. The event lasted some 11 minutes during which time his car covered over 30kmts of windy road. The witnesses' wife was reported to have seen the lights as the motorist arrived at his home. We now have some details from the wife.

She says the area of their camp was lit up by a brilliant light and on going outside she heard a, "high powered supersonic humming sound! Then she saw a brilliantly lit circle of lights approaching, they passed away quickly to the north over Mt Livingstone. Her husband arrived home a few minutes later and described his experiences with the car, she thought he was pulling her leg. However, he stuck to his story, and she later talked to the milkcontractor and found he had been to Tullah as claimed.

Similarities between this case and the August 20th, 1979 incident on the Murchison Highway north of Tullah seem to stretch coincidence to breaking point. A green light appeared behind the car of a lone motorist heading north to the North West Coast. The car lost power to 50kph as the inside of the vehicle somehow lit up. The engine ran on at the same speed despite the driver doing gear changes and applying the brakes. Despite curves and hills the car went at the same speed for some 10kmts, the light staying behind even on a steep hill when the witness thought it should have been obscured. Suddenly the light was no longer there and the car reverted to normal. Another puzzle was that both the car clock and witnesses watch stopped for the duration of the sighting.

In BUFORA's Vehicle Interference Project of 1979 we learn of a case from Peoria, Illinois, USA, on March 31st 1966. A large blue object hovered over a car and seemed to take control said the driver. Brakes and steering were ineffective as the object seemed to direct the car's course for several miles before the driver regained control. From Anapolis, Brazil on October 3rd, 1971 another case tells of similar events. A car sped upto 160k as a ball of light paced the car, the witness had no control over the speed. In a lengthy car pace/abduction on May 30th, 1974 from Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) the witnesses were unable to control their car, both brakes and steering being ineffective as the car travelled at 160k with no accelerator. (FSR Vol 21/2 1975).

This type of event does not seem that common in the UFO scheme of things, but for 2 similar events to happen in the same locality appears to be against the odds, but anything goes it seems in realm of the UFO phenomena?

GREENS BEACH SIGHTING.

The Centre learnt of this July 15th sighting when an Unusual Aerial Sighting Form arrived from the Department of Aviation.

Initial checks on possible explanations - aircraft, Army manoeuvres proved negative. Some form of balloon or aerial pollution seems remote as the object was moving into the southeasterly wind. Media coverage was obtained in the Tasmanian Mail of August 14th and later in the Examiner in September. No further reports have come to hand of what should have been a well witnessed event.

About 11.45am H went outside at his mother in law's Greens Beach shack to check the water and wind to see if conditions were suitable for fishing. Almost at once H noticed out over Bass Strait to the north of Low Head a strange cloud hurtling in from the sea. Initially he thought it was RAAF jets in formation but he soon discounted this idea as the dark mass slowed to almost dead slow in the area of Low Head. After some moments he called out his wife and mother in law to see what they could make of the sight. The cloud like shape now seemed to be hiding a very large dull something.

Greens Beach Continued.

At times the cloud became almost stationary and most of dull elliptical or cigar like object would come into view. Then the cloud would swirl about and the object would be hidden once more. The cloud and object were now moving back and forth low over the hills between Low Head and Georgetown. Gradually it was making its way further southward.

There were no lights on the object which at one stage was all but clear of its surrounding cloud. The witnesses had the impression that the cloud was definitely part of a disguise.

Compared with known objects at a comparable distance to the cigar it looked as if it was of considerable size. It was estimated to be 5+ kmts away.

The object was finally lost to view after 10minutes when it disappeared behind the hills to the east of the Tamar River.

Other Tasmanian sightings have seen the mention of vapour or smoke, as if used to hide the object. At Palmerston and Hamilton in the 1960s cigar like objects were seen in conjunction with cloud/smoke around them. A daylight report from Collins Cap in 1970 saw another cloud and object (disc) in a bright blue sky. At Mayfield in 1972 half of a disc was swathed in a mist.

"A MEDIA FLAP"

About 9.45pm on September 15th, a Saturday night, the Centre's telephone contact for sightings ran hot as callers contacted us with details of a brilliant light seen crossing the western sky.

Initially it was Hobart's Police Control Room that alerted us that something had happened with patrol cars at Oatlands and Cygnet sighting a light for up to 15minutes. Immediate contact with Cygnet Police soon corrected the sighting time to 15 seconds. They had seen a brilliant light with a long tail cross the south western sky, it looked very low and was heading to the south or south east.

Strange bright light across sky puzzles many

PEOPLE throughout Southern Tasmania reported seeing a strange bright light travelling across the sky at about 9.30 on Saturday night.

Telephones at The Mercury, the Weather Bureau, and the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre were kept busy as people tried to find out what the light was.

There were sightings in places as far apart as Triabanna, Cygnet, and Lake Pedder.

MERCURY 17-9-84

EXAMINER 18-9-84.

Greens Beach UFO mystifies experts

A cigar-shaped object sighted flying near Greens Beach in Northern Tasmania two months ago has puzzled members of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre.

An investigator for the centre, Mr Keith Roberts, said yesterday the incident was far more of a mystery than the bright light seen crossing the sky in Southern Tasmania on Saturday night.

Mr Roberts said the light seen at 9.30 pm on Saturday was probably a meteorite or a piece of "space junk" burning up in the atmosphere.

"It was a lot easier to explain than the Greens Beach daytime incident for which we are still seeking further witnesses," Mr Roberts said.

The Greens Beach UFO was sighted at 11.45 am on Sunday, July 15, and was reported to the centre by three witnesses.

They said the cigar-shaped object flew very low about 5km from

Greens Beach and was in view for about 10 minutes.

The unusual aspect of the sighting, according to the witnesses, was that the object appeared to create its own smoke or cloud which kept enveloping it as it moved.

It was seen to do a series of back and forth manoeuvres before eventually disappearing from sight behind hills towards George Town.

The Department of Civil Aviation confirmed no aircraft were flying in the area at the time and the Army, which has a training camp near George Town, had not been involved in any exercises at the time.

Mr Roberts said another unusual aspect of the incident was that the object was flying against the wind.

Mr Roberts said UFO sightings had been very scarce in recent years, but local incidents such as the one at Greens Beach were more difficult to explain than Saturday night's mass sighting.

Observers said that the light was a brilliant white streak in the western sky. It was travelling south-east.

Mr Keith Roberts, of the UFO Investigation Centre, said that Hobart police headquarters rang him up to ask about the light.

He got another phone call from a man who had been fishing on Lake Pedder and who said he heard a hissing sound as the light travelled through the sky.

"A Media Flap" Continued.

Calls came in from a wide area of Southern Tasmania, all gave a time of about 9.30 to 9.40pm, whilst descriptions were all basically the same, a brilliant light with a tail, seen low to the west and going to the south or south east for 30seconds to maybe up to 2 minutes. It was soon evident that a large meteorite or space junk had burnt up in the atmosphere over South Western Tasmania.

Sunday saw further calls coming in from as far away as Savage River to witnesses at Southport. Enquiries also came from the media who had now latched onto the event due mainly to the large number of enquiries to the media and authorities. Coverage in Tasmania's two major daily newspapers failed to mention the Centre's probable explanation of the incident. This meant further calls during Monday and Tuesday from the public who wanted to know what was the explanation for the lights.

We convinced the Launceston Examiner that this type of event was easier to account for than many of the puzzling localized sightings. They also ran coverage of a sighting from Greens Beach that had occurred on July 15th. This was despite their refusal to cover the sighting when the Centre provided them with a press release on the event in July?

It was encouraging to see just how many members of the public contacted the Centre, even from the North West and West Coast areas. Also a good cross section of the community telephoned in details of the sighting.

A number of interesting points came out of the exercise. Even though quite a number of callers were not in their usual environment they still gave a coherent account of what had occurred. Some witnesses were out on the beach, fishing, or driving home from distant places. Most callers were puzzled by the apparent level flight of the burn up but this was due to it being low in the western sky to most people. At Lake Pedder and Southport buzzing or hissing noises were heard indicating that whatever it was was over the South West of the state. It is strange but when a report remains unidentified the witnesses' testimony according to the critics is no longer reliable or accurate?

The Media throughout all this insisted on looking at the sighting as being a UFO. It was not until the Thursday that the Hobart Mercury ran the Centre's explanation of the event. Coverage on the radio referred to UFOs returning to Tasmania, then going on to say it could have been a burn up later in the story. It took a fair amount of talking to push the explanation to the media.

We could not of course complain about the exposure of the Centre to the public. Radio interviews were given on two Launceston Radio stations, and two interviews were given in Hobart. Enquiries on membership were received plus a number of sightings to check out from 1980 to 83 and an older event from 1976. What of UFO cases from 1984, despite the calls, press and radio coverage, no one came forward with anything else than the 'burn up' sighting. It all was really just a "Media Flap".

 Member of the Australian Centre for U.F.O Studies - ACUFOS.** *
 Write to TASMANIAN UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE at PO Box 99, Nth Hobart.
 Publications list available, copies of past Annual Reports.
 Sightings contact Ph 236009 (Keith Roberts) or write to above address.

UFO in South is mystery

People all over Southern Tasmania reported seeing a strange bright light travelling across the sky at about 9.30 pm on Saturday night.

Telephones to the press, the Weather Bureau and the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre were kept busy as people tried to find out what the light was.

The Weather Bureau could not give an explanation.

There were sightings in places as far apart as Triabunna, Cygnet and Lake Pedder.

Observers said that the light was a brilliant white streak in the western sky. It was travelling south-east.

Keith Roberts of the UFO Investigation Centre said that it was not possible to tell exactly what the light was.